

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

May 19, 2003
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, and Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately one hour and 15 minutes to discuss two items of pending litigation, one item of property disposition, and one labor negotiations item.

The Study Session resumed at 7:28 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Youth Link Board Proposal

Helena Stephens, Teen Services Program Administrator, introduced the following Youth Link Board members to present a proposal: Lt. Tom Falkenberg (Chair of the Board's Goal 3 Committee), Samson Ayele (Youth Co-Chair of the Board), and Maral Sabeti.

Lt. Falkenberg requested Council approval to implement a Youth Link shadow/intern program involving City Council and perhaps the Leadership Team. One of Youth Link's three goals for this year is to: Build strategic support and engage with key systems such as the City Council, Parks and Community Services Department, and other cities. If Council approves the proposal, attendance by Youth Link participants will be mandatory. Three high-school youths would be selected to attend Council meetings until 9:00 p.m. and they will commit 2-3 hours per month to perform research for the Council or the Leadership Team. Lt. Falkenberg said the Board proposes the program start in September and continue through next June, at which time it could be reviewed to determine whether it should be continued.

Mr. Ayele said benefits of the proposed program include youth support and input to City Council and the opportunity to raise the level of youth leadership goals. Ms. Sabeti said the program will allow youths to interact with City leaders and contribute to a tradition of community service.

Mayor Marshall noted Councilmembers' willingness to speak to American Government classes in local high schools. She suggested that Council intern participants could share their experiences and knowledge with their fellow classmates as well. Mr. Ayele noted that American Government is taken only by seniors. Mayor Marshall suggested the intern program be focused on juniors, in preparation for their American Government classes.

Mr. Mosher suggested trying the program for a shorter period of time initially. Lt. Falkenberg said the program could be reviewed at three months or at the middle of the school year if desired.

Deputy Mayor Degginger expressed support for the proposal. Mayor Marshall feels there would be value in the participants sharing their experience with other youth, perhaps by writing articles for the school newspaper. Responding to Mr. Degginger, Lt. Falkenberg said three youth have already volunteered to participate in the program.

(b) Youth Link Presentation on Eastsideteens.com Web Site

Ms. Stephens opened discussion about a new web site for teens called Eastsideteens.com. She introduced Steve Jahn, Janis Gaines, and Claudia Balducci (members of the Advance Bellevue project team) and Rob Ott and Trish McNabb with Eastside Network.

Ms. Stephens provided background information on the development of the project. In 1996, the City of Bellevue, Bellevue School District, and the Search Institute of Minneapolis collaborated to provide a survey of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders in Bellevue public schools. The purpose was to determine the level of developmental assets. More than 2,500 students participated in the survey and the average number of assets experienced by Bellevue youth in 1996 was 19.9. As a result of the survey, the City launched the *It's About Time for Kids* program. In 2000, the City collaborated again with Bellevue School District and the East King County Community Public Health and Safety Network (now Eastside Network) to update the developmental asset information. A second survey of 7th, 9th, and 11th graders was conducted and the average number of developmental assets in 2000 was 20.1.

In October 2001, *It's About Time for Kids* hosted a community-wide discussion about the survey. The main question asked of community leaders was – How do we as a community continue to raise developmental assets for our children? Programs such as the 24-Hour Relay Challenge begin to address the increased need for teens to interact with adults in a positive and long-term setting. Ms. Stephens said additional community solutions are needed, however. More than 200 youths and adults created a list of desired activities including arts, mentorship, business opportunities, and leadership roles. One idea was the creation of a community-based local web site to provide information on events and activities for teens and youth. The web site would provide interaction, training, resources, and accurate information on activities. The first community web site team consisting of Newport High School students and community leaders worked for a year to establish the initial web site concept and elements. The team secured

funding through the Youth Link Program and the 24-Hour Relay Challenge. The first team eventually disbanded due to graduating students and time constraints on teen members.

In the fall of 2002, Advance Bellevue approached the City with a request for projects for their 2002-2003 class. The web site project was offered as an opportunity to take on a needed and challenging project that would greatly benefit teens and families in Bellevue. Ms. Stephens announced that the web site began operations last week. The Advance Bellevue team worked nine months to produce the site in collaboration with Bellevue Community College and Sammamish High School.

Mr. Jahn distributed information as well as Eastsideteens.com pens and buttons. He described how the site provides one-stop browsing for youth and teen activities and services. He thanked Sammamish High School Technology Center students and Bellevue Community College interns for their development, design, and documentation of the web site. Ms. Gaines said the project will be marketed to Eastside teens using buttons, pens, and flyers. The King County Journal ran a small article on the web site as well. Ms. Balducci provided an online demonstration of the web site, which organizes information by subject categories, organizations, and date.

Mayor Marshall expressed enthusiasm for the project and thanked Advance Bellevue team members for their participation.

(c) New Electronic Information Services for Bellevue Citizens

[Item postponed to Agenda Item 5, Report of the City Manager, during the Regular Session.]

At 7:59 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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